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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/937,862	09/28/2001	Steven Oberste	14114.0353U2	8841

7590

12/18/2002

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EXAMINER

FOLEY, SHANON A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1648

DATE MAILED: 12/18/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/937,862

Applicant(s)

OBERSTE ET AL.

Examiner

Shanon Foley

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 September 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-11, drawn to a method for detecting the presence of an enterovirus. If applicant elects this group, applicant is required to elect a single pair of oligonucleotides from the following list: SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 9, SEQ ID NO: 19, SEQ ID NO: 20, SEQ ID NO: 21, SEQ ID NO: 22, SEQ ID NO: 80, SEQ ID NO: 81, SEQ ID NO: 82, SEQ ID NO: 83, SEQ ID NO: 84, SEQ ID NO: 85, and SEQ ID NO: 86.

Group II, claim(s) 12-29, drawn to a method of typing an enterovirus. If applicant elects this group, applicant is required to elect a single pair of oligonucleotides from the following list: SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 9, SEQ ID NO: 19, SEQ ID NO: 20, SEQ ID NO: 21, SEQ ID NO: 22, SEQ ID NO: 80, SEQ ID NO: 81, SEQ ID NO: 82, SEQ ID NO: 83, SEQ ID NO: 84, SEQ ID NO: 85, and SEQ ID NO: 86.

Group III, claim(s) 30-33, drawn to an oligonucleotide. If applicant elects this group, applicant is required to elect a single oligonucleotide from the following list: SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 9, SEQ ID NO: 19, SEQ ID NO: 20, SEQ ID NO: 21, SEQ ID NO: 22, SEQ ID NO: 80, SEQ ID NO: 81, SEQ ID NO: 82, SEQ ID NO: 83, SEQ ID NO: 84, SEQ ID NO: 85, SEQ ID NO: 86, or a complementary oligonucleotide to any single SEQ ID NO.

Group IV, claim(s) 34-46, drawn to a mixture of oligonucleotides. If applicant elects this group, applicant is required to elect a single mixture of oligonucleotides from groups A-D:

A) SEQ ID NO: 80	B) SEQ ID NO: 3	C) SEQ ID NO: 83	D) SEQ ID NO: 19
SEQ ID NO: 81	SEQ ID NO: 4	SEQ ID NO: 84	SEQ ID NO: 20
SEQ ID NO: 82	SEQ ID NO: 9	SEQ ID NO: 85	SEQ ID NO: 21
		SEQ ID NO: 86	SEQ ID NO: 22

The inventions listed as Groups I-IV do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: The special technical feature of group I is drawn to a method of determining the presence of an enterovirus in a sample by amplifying a nucleotide

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sequence encoding a portion of an enterovirus genome with oligonucleotides that specifically hybridize to conserved regions of the sense and antisense strands and detecting the presence of an amplified product. This special technical feature lacks novelty in the art. Kilpatrick (WO 98/14611) anticipates a method of detecting the presence of an enterovirus in a sample by contacting a sample with oligonucleotides that specifically hybridize to conserved regions of the sense and antisense strands of an enterovirus and detecting the presence of an amplified product, see claims 1 and 8. Since the special technical feature of group I lacks novelty in the art, any subsequent group that does not share the special technical feature with group I lacks unity of invention.

The special technical feature of group II is drawn to a second method, typing an enterovirus present in a sample. This group lacks unity of invention with group I because the methods do not share the same method steps or require the same components to complete the object of each method.

The special technical feature of group III is drawn to a first product, a single oligonucleotide. This group does not share the same special technical feature of group I because this group does not require any method steps and group I requires at least two oligonucleotides.

The special technical feature of group IV is drawn to a second product, a mixture of oligonucleotides. This group lacks unity of invention with group I because the group does not share any method steps with group I.

The specific election of oligonucleotides for each group is required because each sequence comprises structurally unique sequences, as evidenced by a separately designated SEQ ID NO. Also, the sequences do not define the special technical feature for any group and are patentably distinct.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).


Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).


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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shanon Foley whose telephone number is (703) 308-3983. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Housel can be reached on (703) 308-4027. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-4242 for regular communications and (703) 308-4426 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.


Shanon Foley
December 16, 2002


JAMES HOUSEL 12/16/02
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600